

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

LENARD T. DIGGINS, CHAIR  
DIANE M. MAHON, VICE CHAIR  
JOHN V. HURD  
STEPHEN W. DECOURCEY  
ERIC D. HELMUTH



730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
TELEPHONE  
781-316-3020  
781-316-3029 FAX

TOWN OF ARLINGTON  
MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laura Swan, Chair  
Transportation Advisory Committee

FROM: Britton Mallard  
Administrative Assistant

DATE: February 28, 2023

RE: Concerns Re: Intersection Improvement at Churchill Ave, Endicott  
Rd, and Gloucester St

The Select Board at the meeting of February 27, 2023, referred the attached to you for your review and recommendations back to the Board.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

attachment

## Summary

At the intersection of Churchill Ave, Endicott Rd, and Gloucester St we believe the road is excessively wide, which leads to unsafe pedestrian crossing, unsafe vehicle merging, and an unnecessary lack of green space. To give perspective, the current distance pedestrians cross is equivalent to 10-15 Subaru Forester SUVs side-to-side. We kindly ask the town to explore and act upon options for decreasing the area of paved space, increasing green space, and supporting safer crossing of pedestrians and drivers.

## Areas for Intersection Improvement

The intersection of Churchill Ave, Endicott Rd, and Gloucester St is depicted in Figure 1 below with example images from a pedestrian point of view in Appendix 1. The wide road width entering the intersection, in addition to the size of the intersection itself, lead to multiple problems including:

Pedestrian safety: While the roads that feed into the intersection are about 30 feet wide, the primary pedestrian crossing areas range from 62 – 90 feet wide and do not have crosswalk signage. These large distances take extra time to cross on foot and do not have any protections from traffic. Of note, this intersection is heavily trafficked by high school students walking to/from school.

Vehicle safety: Vehicles coming from Gloucester or Endicott and turning onto Churchill have multiple challenges including (1) uncertainty where to stop given the wide road opening and (2) poor visibility looking south along Churchill given a hill and curve in the road. Furthermore, given the obtuse angle of the intersection, it's not always clear what is the main flow of traffic and subsequently vehicles tend to merge or turn at higher speeds than may be safe.

Green space: All the excess pavement area could instead be green space. Our impression is that Arlington recognizes the importance of green space, including water runoff buffering, reduction of urban heat islands, and general citizen enjoyment.

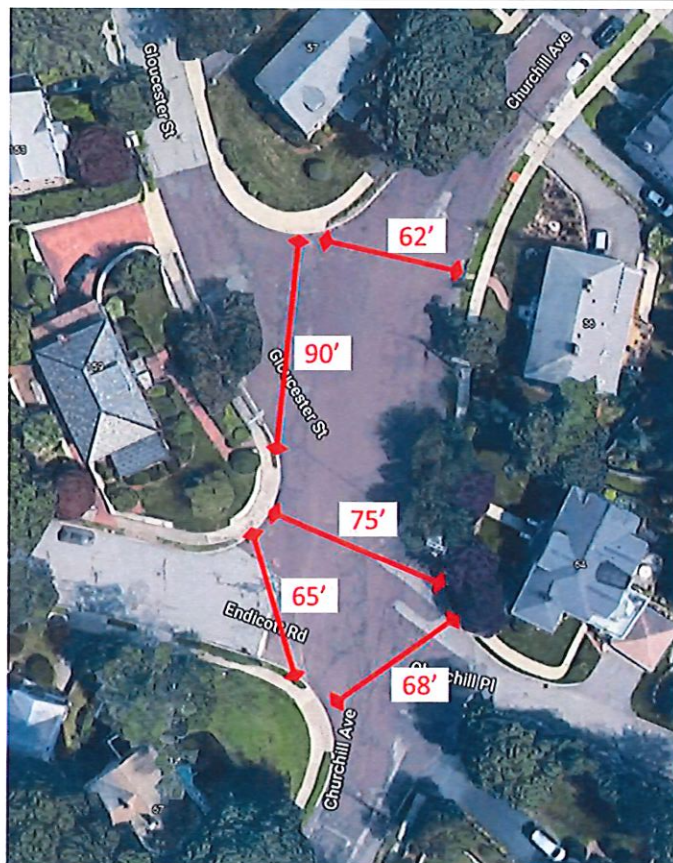


Figure 1: Google image of the intersection. Distances measured in feet and done by hand using a tape measure.

## Potential Solution

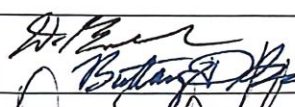
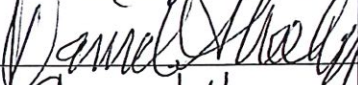
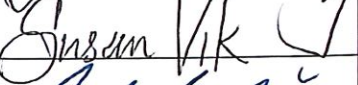


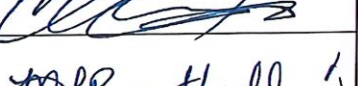


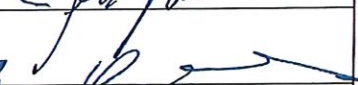

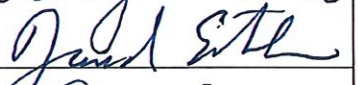





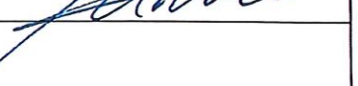
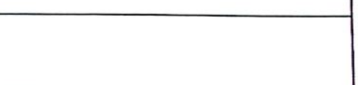
We believe there are options for extending the curbs and/or adding islands to address some of the issues raised above. Below in Figure 2 is one option we roughly sketched as a potential solution to the problems raised. A similar approach was taken at the intersection of Gray St. And Endicott Rd with success in slowing traffic on Endicott. We ask the town to consider this option, as well as explore additional solutions, to significantly improve this intersection and the lives of people who use it.



Figure 2: Sketches of alternate intersection design

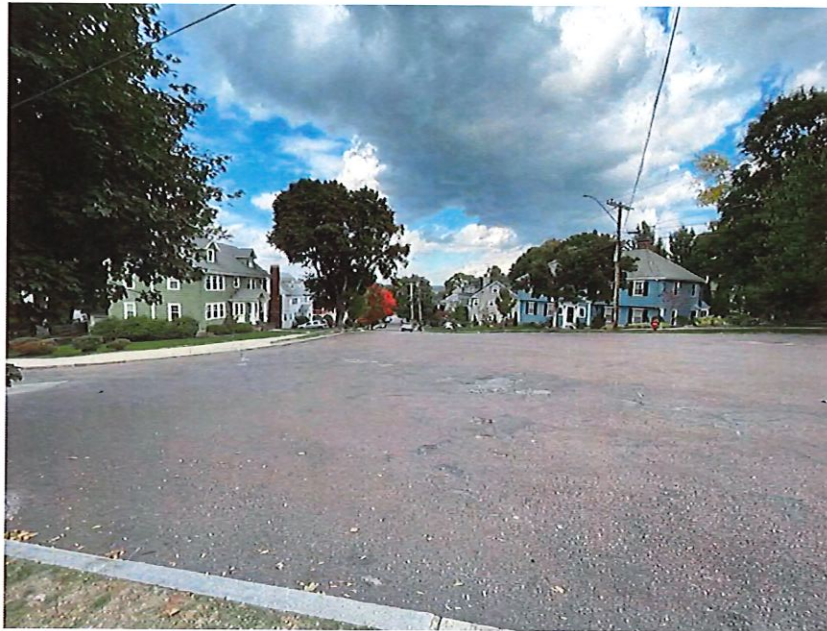
Thanks for your consideration in this matter. Please find signatures on the following page



Name	Address	Date	Signature
Devin and Brittany Bridgen	25 Endicott	1/1/2023	
Daniel Sheehy	141 Gray St	1/1/2023	
Susan Vik	141 Gray St	1/1/2023	
J. David Leslie	145 Gray St	1/1/2023	
Katarzyna Brze	145 Gray St.	1/1/2023	
Chris Chiappa	38 Temple	1/1/2023	
Maggie Benthall	42 Temple St	1/1/2023	
Gianne Gragn	11 E. Endicott Rd	1/1/23	
Jean Yodert	70 Churchill Ave	1-1-23	
Ricardus Grandin	8 Endicott Rd	1/1/2023	
Sherry Keiser	67 Churchill Ave	1/8/2023	
DAVID APPELBERG	67 CAVALIER AVE	1/8/2023	
ALICE TSAI-MARIE	35 Temple St.	1/7/2023	
RENE LINARD	34 Temple St	1/7/2023	
Mary Perry	27 Temple St	1/26/23	
Jessica Nordgren	19 Jason St.	1/26/23	
Cynthia English	54 Temple St	1/28/23	
Jean-Charles Moric	35 Temple St	02/05/23	

Appendix 1: Images from Intersection

---



Looking north from the intersection of  
Endicott and Gloucester



Looking south-east from the  
intersection of Endicott and Gloucester